

# **SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SUMMARIES AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1999**

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**Prepared for the  
November 29-30, 1999 Executive Committee Meeting  
by the  
Committee Operations Staff  
of the  
Science Advisory Board**

**OVERVIEW:** This document was prepared by the Committee Operations Staff (COS) to summarize recent activities of the Standing and various *ad hoc* Committees of the Board. These summaries are designed to supplement discussions at the November 29–30, 1999 meeting of the Board's Executive Committee. This document includes committee summaries that cover the period since the last face-to-face Executive Committee meeting (July 13-14, 1999), a listing of COS Staff, a list of all SAB reports (full and letter size) issued since the beginning of the current fiscal year (October 1, 1999), and a listing of reports that are presently in progress.

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## 1. ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

### 1.1 Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) has a statutorily mandated responsibility (under the 1977 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments) to review and offer scientific and technical advice to the Administrator on the air quality criteria and regulatory documents which form the basis for the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). NAAQS have been established for lead, particulate matter (PM), ozone and other photochemical oxidants, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>). This process normally includes review of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Air Quality Criteria Document (CD) for a given NAAQS, followed by a review of the Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) Staff Paper (SP) for that NAAQS. The Criteria Document contains all the relevant scientific and technical information on the pollutant, while the Staff Paper is the bridge between the science in the criteria document and the policy decision that has to be made by the EPA Administrator. Sometimes the Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for a NAAQS prior to its promulgation. The Committee also offers research recommendations on a periodic basis, normally following its review of a particular NAAQS. The Committee has just begun the next review cycle for PM and is about halfway through the cycle for CO.

#### a) Recent and Planned Activities

1) Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) NAAQS - a) Criteria Document/Staff Paper - The CASAC last met on this issue on May 5, 1998, when it reviewed the PM Development Plan prepared by ORD's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), RTP, NC. The Agency will bring the first external review draft of the PM Criteria Document to the Committee for review on December 2 1999. b) PM Research Strategy - The Committee last met on June 10, 1999 and prepared a report. A teleconference meeting is planned, but not yet scheduled for January-February 2000. c) Fine Particles - The CASAC Technical Subcommittee for Fine Particle Monitoring is providing advice to the Office of Air and Radiation on PM monitoring activities. The Subcommittee plans to hold several meetings over the next few years to respond to its developing charge and to ensure that appropriate coordination is established with the NRC Committee on particles. The Subcommittee last met via teleconference on July 29, 1999 to receive updates from the Agency. The Subcommittee's next meeting is planned, but not yet scheduled, for March 2000.

2) Carbon Monoxide (CO) NAAQS - On November 18, 1999, the Committee completed its review (reaching closure) of the CO Criteria Document. The Committee is preparing a report to summarize its comments. A meeting on the first draft of the CO Staff Paper is planned for March-April 2000, but is not yet scheduled.

3) Diesel Health Assessment - The Committee reviewed this draft ORD document in May 1995 and May 1998. In both cases, the Committee noted that the document was not scientifically adequate for making regulatory decisions concerning the use of diesel powered engines. On June 10, 1999, the Committee held a Consultation with the Agency concerning the planned approaches for revising the draft Diesel Health Assessment. Another review of the draft by CASAC is scheduled for December 1, 1999.

#### **b) Reports and Meetings**

1) Reports Issued: a) Consultation on the CO Staff Paper; b) draft CO Criteria Document closure report in progress

2) Meetings Held: a) Nov. 18, 1999 - CASAC Carbon Monoxide Review Panel

3) Meetings Planned: a) Dec. 1 -- CASAC Diesel Review Panel on Diesel Health Assessment; b) Dec. 2 -- CASAC PM Review Panel on PM Criteria Document; c) Jan/Feb TBA -- CASAC PM Review Panel teleconference on PM Research Strategy; d) Mar TBA -- CASAC Fine Particle Monitoring Subcommittee; e) Mar/Apr TBA -- CASAC Carbon Monoxide Review Panel on the CO Staff Paper; and f) Summer TBA -- CASAC PM Review Panel on PM Criteria Document and Staff Paper.

#### **c) Membership**

There are no anticipated changes to the statutory CASAC membership this year.

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### **1.2 Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (Council)**

#### **a) Background**

The Council has its origin in the requirements of Section 812 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. That section mandated that a Council be established to provide independent advice on technical and economic aspects of analyses and reports that the Agency prepares concerning the impacts of the Clean Air Act on the public health, economy, and the environment of the United States.

The Agency has submitted the first prospective analysis to Congress. The analysis projects the costs and benefits of implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) over the period 1990-2010. It will be the first of many prospective studies, which the Clean Air Act Amendments required EPA to submit to Congress every two years.

The Council has two standing subcommittees, the Health and Ecological Effects Subcommittee (HEES) and the Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee (AQMS).

#### **b) Activities since the last EC Meeting**

1) Health & Ecological Effects Subcommittee - The HEES and Council submitted two Advisories addressing health and ecological effects issues. On July 28, 1999, the Administrator received a letter providing advice on the methods to be used in the Prospective Study (EPA-SAB-COUNCIL-ADV-99-012. "The Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999): Advisory by the Health and Ecological Effects Subcommittee on Initial Assessments of Health and Ecological Effects;Part 1). On October 29, 1999, the Administrator received a second letter that evaluated the input data, methods, and conclusions reached in

a June draft of the Prospective Study (EPA-SAB-COUNCIL-ADV-00-00, "The Clean Air Amendments (CAAA) Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999): Advisory by the Health and Ecological Effects Subcommittee on Initial Assessments of Health and Ecological Effects; Part 2."

2) Emissions and Air Quality Modeling - The AQMS and Council submitted one Advisory on August 12, 1999 addressing the emissions data and air quality models to be used in the Prospective Study (EPA-SAB-COUNCIL-ADV-99-013. The Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999): Advisory by the Air Quality Models Subcommittee on Modeling and Emissions.)

c) Council - The Council met on July 13-14, 1999 to review the Agency's draft Prospective Study of the costs and benefits of the CAAA. This draft responded to advice received from both the AQMS and the HEES. The Agency used oral advice received at the meeting to revise its document. The Council held a public teleconference call on October 1, 1999 to review a revised September draft of the Prospective Study. The Agency took the oral advice provided and offered an October draft, which the Council discussed in a public teleconference call on October 15, 1999.

The Council sent a Letter Advisory based on the July draft to the Administrator on October 29, 1999 (EPA-SAB-COUNCIL-ADV-00-002. The Clean Air Amendments (CAAA) Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999): Advisory by the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis: Costs and Benefits of the CAAA). The Council sent a final Advisory on the 1999 Prospective Study to the Administrator on November 19, 1999 (EPA-SAB-COUNCIL-ADV-00-003, Final Advisory by the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis on the 1999 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999) of Implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA))

**c) Future Activities**

The Council and its subcommittees expect to advise EPA in the design and development of the next iteration of the Section 812 prospective study.

**d) Status of Reports in Progress (described in b) above)**

**e) An Update on Membership for FY2000**

The Agency filled one opening on the Council, Dr. Trudy Ann Cameron, University of California, Los Angeles, CA joined the Council. Dr. A. Myrick Freeman, Bowdoin College, ME, retired as a member and will serve as a consultant to the Council.

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**1.3 Drinking Water Committee (DWC)**

The Science Advisory Board is mandated by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments to comment on drinking water regulations prior to promulgation. The Drinking Water Committee (DWC) carries out this mandate for the Board by reviewing various scientific and technical documents associated with the Office of Water's SDWA regulatory activities. The DWC also reviews various drinking water research plans and products for EPA's Office of Research and Development and observes EPA Stage 2 drinking water regulation stakeholder meetings to both learn more of this EPA

approach to achieving its mission and to help the program office identify scientific and technical issues that might benefit from SAB interaction.

**a) Activities Since the Last EC Meeting**

1) DWC and Stakeholder Process for Stage 2 Drinking Water Regulations - At the October, 1998 SAB meeting, the Executive Committee endorsed the DWC's plan to conduct an experiment to learn more about one of EPA's evolving approaches to achieve its environmental protection mission (broader interaction between EPA and stakeholders). In this activity, DWC representatives observe each Stakeholder meeting in order to become informed of the scientific processes and issues that are a part of the interactions. This benefits the DWC by allowing it to keep up with new EPA regulatory approaches and the Agency by providing an outside observer who can identify scientific issues that might benefit from outside assistance. Since the last SAB Executive Committee meeting, the Stakeholder Committee has met monthly to discuss the status of EPA's management of data obtained from the first twelve (12) months of the Information Collection Rule; the state-of-the-science on carcinogenic, reproductive, and developmental effects associated with Disinfection Byproducts (both toxicology based and epidemiology based results); microbial monitoring, occurrence, and disease; and control technology issues. The next stakeholder meeting will occur on December 8-9, 1999. The focus of the deliberations seem to be on learning more about reproductive and developmental effects at this stage. SAB representatives will continue to observe the proceedings.

2) Radon in Drinking Water - EPA proposed its drinking water regulation for Radon on November 2, 1999. The proposal includes a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of 0 based on carcinogenic effects. Responding to past SAB comments, and provisions in the 1996 SDWA amendments, EPA proposed both a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – that is an enforceable standard – and an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) for radon. Drinking water systems have the option of meeting a 300 pCi/liter MCL or alternatively meeting a drinking water standard of 4,000 pCi/liter AMCL and simultaneously implementing at the state or community level a Multimedia Mitigation Program (MMP) for radon in indoor air. This recognizes the allocation of estimated risk from radon in the home that associates about 2% of risk with radon in drinking water and 98% with radon in indoor air. The agency briefed the Radiation Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Drinking Water Committee on this proposal at the November 18, 1999 RAC meeting. Dr. Bull will prepare a letter to the Agency noting that due to scheduling constraints, the large number of past SAB reviews of radon, and the anticipated fit of the Agency proposal to the statute and to past SAB comments, that the SAB will not undertake an initial review of the radon proposal at this time.

**b) Future Activities**

The Drinking Water Committee will schedule a meeting to address a number of issues during the second quarter of FY 2000. Topics that might be addressed include the Office of Research and Development research strategy for supporting the Candidate Chemical Listing process, and regulatory proposals for the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Treatment Rule, and non-radon radionuclide Notice of Data Availability.

**c) Status of Reports in Progress** - No reports are in process.

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## **1.4 Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC)**

**a) Activities since the last Executive Committee meeting**--The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee did not meet during this period. Committee members continued to draft, comment and concur on reports in progress, including a review of the Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) for acute toxicity of metals to aquatic organisms; a review of Equilibrium Sediment Guidelines (ESG) for a mixture of metals; and an advisory on an approach to developing Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs) for use at Superfund sites. One of these draft reports (BLM) is before the Executive Committee for review at the November 29-30 meeting. The remaining two are expected to be available for EC review in December.

**b) Future Activities:**

The Committee's focus in the second quarter likely will be: a) work on its strategic project to outline an ecological report card framework, and b) review of the Risk Assessment Forum's project on determining ecological risk management objectives.

**c) Report Before the Executive Committee for Review:**

Biotic Ligand Model: The Committee concluded that the Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) is a promising new tool for evaluating bioavailability of copper and silver to water column organisms, while noting the current limits to model validation. The Committee recommends that the BLM be reserved at present for site-specific adjustments to water quality criteria where the assumptions and validated conditions can be met, and urges further development of the approach to allow expanded applications in the future (e.g., for additional metals, additional species, and a broader range of water chemistry conditions).

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## **1.5 Environmental Health Committee (EHC)**

The EHC had no activities as a committee during this period. The Chair and Members did support a number of EC Subcommittees (see section 11).

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## **1.6 Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC)**

The Science Advisory Board's Environmental Economics Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing and providing advice on a number of economic analysis initiatives at the EPA. Included are efforts to help the Agency develop high quality economic research plans and efforts to help the Agency develop improved environmental economic analysis procedures and guidelines.

**a) Activities Since the Last EC Meeting**

1) Economic Analysis Guidelines - The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) met via telephone conference on July 27, 1999 to reach closure on their comments on EPA's economic analysis guidelines. The committee reached consensus on all charge questions. Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee drafted, revised and gained approval from the SAB Executive Committee, a report that conveys its advice on a number of issues with the guidelines. The final report was delivered to the Administrator on September 30, 1999.

2) Induced Travel Demand The Committee held a Consultation with EPA officials on the Agency's reading of the literature on induced travel at its meeting on November 12, 1999. The Agency will continue to consider the science which underlies this issue and will begin to develop a policy for considering induced travel demand as it reviews the impact of highway projects on Clean Air Act regulatory initiatives.

3) PACE Survey - In its January 1999 Commentary, the SAB advised the Administrator to renew its support of the Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditures Survey. The Agency noted in its response to the SAB, that it intended to support renewal of this important survey. The response noted the Board's influence in the decision by EPA and the Census Bureau to support renewal of the survey. At its November 12, 1999 meeting, Mr. Richard Farrell, Associate Administrator for Policy, Innovation, and Economics reported on a workshop being organized by EPA and representatives from Resources for the Future to explore issues that are relevant to a redesigned PACE survey. The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee has been asked to be cosponsor this workshop if authorized to do so by the SAB Executive Committee.

#### **b) Future Activities**

The next meeting of the EEAC is being scheduled for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2000. The preferred date would be during March 2000 to enable appropriate EEAC members to attend the PACE Workshop. Topics being considered for discussion at the meeting include: guidelines for valuing fatal environmentally induced cancer cases and review of the agency's approach to evaluating the benefits of innovative environmental approaches, specifically Project X-L.

#### **c) Status of Reports in Progress**

A notice of Consultation for the Induced Travel Demand interaction has been prepared for transmittal to the Administrator.

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### **1.7 Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)**

**a) Activities since the last EC Meeting** - The Environmental Engineering Committee met October 7, 1999 by conference call. The purposes of the meeting was to: 1) review what the Committee did in FY1999 and the Agency's responses; 2) introduce new members; 3) talk about the FY2000 review requests, EPA budget, and SAB resource constraints; and 4) decide which review topics to undertake in FY2000.

The Committee has transmitted reports on its Review of 1996 Risk Management Plan for Wet Weather Flows and the 1997 Urban Infrastructure Research Plan (EPA-SAB-EEC-99-019) and Improving the Efficacy of Science Advisory Board Reviews: A Study of the Attributes of Successful Technical Reviews by the Environmental Engineering Committee (EPA-SAB-EEC-COM-00-001) to the Administrator and received responses from the Agency to its reports Waste Leachability: The Need for Review of Current Agency Procedures (EPA-SAB-EEC-COM-99-002) and Environmental Impacts of Natural Hazards: The Need for Agency Action (EPA-SAB-EEC-99-COM-003).

The Committee has no reports before the Executive Committee for review at this meeting.

#### **b) Future Activities:**

The Committee plans to address six issues at three face-to-face meetings in FY2000. The issues (with SAB project numbers) are:

- 1) Natural Attenuation (00-15)
- 2) Sediments (00-45)
- 3) Environmental Technology Verification (00-46)
- 4) Measures of Technology Performance (00-64)
- 5) Waste Utilization (00-65)
- 6) Soc. Sci. & P2 (00-66)

Planning conference calls are scheduled in December for each of these activities among SAB staff and key committee members. The goal of each conference calls is to make those decisions needed for routine implementation of the review, that is to: 1) reach agreement on the charge or a draft revised charge; 2) identify expertise needed and experts to invite, if additional experts are needed; and 3) develop two sets of proposed meeting dates for discussion with EPA.

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## **1.8 Integrated Human Exposure Committee (IHEC)**

The IHEC had no activities as a committee during this period.

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## **1.9 Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)**

### **a) Recent Activities**

The RAC:1) completed their **Advisory on Assessing Risks from Indoor Radon (EPA-SAB-RAC-ADV-99-010, dated July 14, 1999)**, 2) canceled its scheduled August 24-26, 1999 face-to-face meeting due to budget signals which shifted the ORIA contractor deliverables on the planned TENORM review; 3) on October 18, 1999 transmitted review and informational materials to the RAC for the RAC's scheduled November 16-18, 1999 Review of Indoor Radon in Homes; 4) on November 16-18, 1999 the RAC conducted its **Review of Indoor Radon in Homes (SAB Project No. 00-19)**, and prepared its first draft report on this topic; 5) on November 17, 1999 planned out the RAC's Fiscal Year 2000 review schedule; and 6) on November 18, 1999 the RAC, in consort with the Chair of the Drinking Water Committee (DWC), received an informational briefing on the **Status of the Radon in Drinking Water Rule (SAB Project No. 00-59)** from staff in the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water (OGWDW) within the Office of Water.

### **b) Future Activities of the Committee and its Ad Hoc Subcommittees**

Future RAC Meetings: As planned, the RAC will hold three meetings for FY 2000, with the first meeting having been conducted as scheduled on November, 16-18 1999. The RAC plans to meet in the Spring [ April 25-27, 2000] (backup dates are April 26-28, or April 18-20), and the Summer [August 1-3, 2000] (backup dates are August 8-10). The RAC also targeted its first meeting in FY 2001 for November 14-16, 2000 (backup dates are Dec. 12-14, 2000). Anticipated topics for the Spring 2000 meeting to be reviewed by the RAC include an Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) **Advisory on Technologically-Enhanced Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) (SAB Project**



**No. 00-21), an Advisory on GENII, Version 2 (SAB Project No. 00-20),** a consultation on Sewage Sludge, a briefing on **MARLAP (SAB Project No. 00-22)** and review of the Agency's response to the Low Activity Mixed Waste (LAMW) Advisory. The courtesy briefing from ORIA on the draft Multi-Agency Radiation Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) deals with an Inter-Agency document which is being developed, which is planned to be reviewed by a Subcommittee of the RAC in FY 2001. Anticipated topics for the RAC's Summer meeting include an Advisory on the Approach for Protocol for Dose and Risk of Sewage Sludge Disposal, a review of GENII Version 2, organizing for the MARLAP review and a discussion of the FY 2001 projects. The Fall FY 2001 RAC meeting will likely include the MARLAP review as the major topic.

#### **c) Membership**

The current Chair, Dr. Stephen L. Brown, who has served as Chair of the RAC for two years (1997-1999), elected not to extend his membership for a second two-year term. The Administrator selected Dr. Jan Johnson as Chair of the RAC. Dr. William Bair was moved from member to consultant, and Dr. Donald Langmuir, a geochemist who had joined our ranks just last year resigned from the SAB, due to personal health problems. New members appointed by the Administrator included Drs. Lynn Anspaugh, Research Professor at the University of Utah, Bruce Boecker, Scientist Emeritus at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, and Gilles Bussod, Geochemist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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### **1.10 Research Strategies Advisory Committee (RSAC)**

The broad RSAC objective is to advise the Agency on its process for developing research priorities and planning to support those priorities in terms of expertise, infrastructure, and budget.

#### **a) Recent Activities**

The Committee met September 23-24, 1999 to be briefed on the Agency budget status for FY2000 and for the budget process and schedule for FY 2001, to plan a joint review of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program with the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD), to be briefed on the status of the Agency's Science Strategic Plan, and to conduct a review of the Agency's Peer Review Program. The Committee's report on the Peer Review Process was discussed at the November 22 EC teleconference.

#### **b) Meetings Planned**

RSAC will meet on January 12-13, 2000 to review the STAR Program - The focus is on the process used to select STAR grants. The Committee will conduct the review jointly with the BOSC.

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### **1.11 *ad hoc* Subcommittees of the Executive Committee (EC)**

#### **1.11.1 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Subcommittee**

The STAA panel met on July 21-22, 1999 to review 94 submissions from the Agency for the FY1998 review cycle. The panel is chaired by Dr. Herb Ward of Rice University. The Subcommittee Report was reviewed by the EC in September and issued on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is planned for March 2000 to review the FY1999 nominations.

### **1.11.2 Environmental Models Subcommittee**

The Environmental Models Subcommittee (EMS) of the Executive Committee was established in the Spring of 1998 to work with the Agency's Committee on Regulatory Modeling or CREM. To help the Agency develop more effective environmental regulatory models. It is anticipated that the EMS will meet 3 or 4 times over a two year period to help the Agency evaluate and improve its modeling capacity.

The EMS has not met since the last EC meeting but will meet on December 13 - 14, 1999 to review the TRIM.FaTE and TRIM.EXPO components of the Total Risk Integrated Methodology (TRIM) developed by EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

### **1.11.3 Integrated Risk Project (IRP)**

The IRP reports were peer reviewed by the IRP Peer Review Subcommittee July 1-2, 1999, with a report issued by the Subcommittee on Sept. 17th. The IRP Panel is in the process of finalizing their report.

### **1.11.4 Data from Testing of Human Subjects Subcommittee (DTHSS)**

In December, 1998, a Joint Subcommittee (the Data from Testing of Human Subjects (DTHS) Subcommittee) of the Science Advisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Panel met to consider a variety of issues related to the use of human subjects in research, with a focus on the exposure of such subjects to pesticides. The review was requested by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxic Substances to assist them in preparing a draft policy on the use of data taken on human subjects, addressing both ethical and scientific issues.

As of this writing, the DTHS has produced four successive draft reports, but has not reached consensus. Attempts to reconcile majority and minority positions (particularly with respect to the intentional exposure of humans to pesticides) have not borne fruit, and a follow-on meeting for the late Summer or early Fall will be scheduled so the differences in viewpoint can either be accommodated in a consensus report, or a decision made to incorporate a minority statement in the final Subcommittee report.

### **1.11.5 Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Review Subcommittee (CRAGRS)**

On July 27-28, the Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Review Subcommittee (CRAGRS) of the Executive Committee met in Arlington, VA to review the draft revisions to the EPA's Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines (GL). This meeting was a follow-on to the Board's earlier review of the general GLs earlier this year (EPA-SAB-EC-99-014). The current revisions were designed to address specifically issues related to risk assessment for children. The review focused on the soundness of the proposed GL's default science policy positions for assessing risk in the absence of agent-specific data.; default approaches for converting a human equivalent dose for adults into a human equivalent dose for children for oral and inhalation exposures; and the adjustment of slope factors to address lifetime and partial lifetime exposure scenarios reflecting data on early-life sensitivity. The Subcommittee also reviewed EPA's draft responses to ten questions on cancer risk assessment for children posed by the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. Draft 2 of the Subcommittee's report is currently under review by the membership.

### **1.11.6 Chloroform Risk Assessment Review Subcommittee (CRARS)**

The Chloroform Risk Assessment Review Subcommittee (CRARS) of the Executive Committee met on October 27-28, 1999, Co-chaired by Drs. Richard Bull and Mark Utell. The Subcommittee's

review was designed to determine if changes need to be made to either the draft chloroform risk assessment, or to the proposed Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines' (GLs) section on Mode of Action, before these documents were finalized. The Subcommittee also addressed specifically the draft chloroform risk assessment's conclusions as to chloroform's mode of action; the strength of the analyses supporting the choice of a non-linear approach to dose-response; and the adequacy (given the data available) of the assessment of children's risk from exposure to chloroform in drinking water. At the Agency's request, the Subcommittee will provide a brief report on possible revisions to the GLs' Mode of Action section within three weeks of the meeting (this report will be reviewed at the November 29/30, 1999 meeting of the SAB Executive Committee). A full report addressing all aspects of the Charge is currently being prepared. In general, this report (as well as the brief report noted above) will reflect the Subcommittee's support for the Agency's positions on the issues reviewed, but it will also provide suggestions for improvement.

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## 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

### 2.1 Committee Operations Staff (with Principal Committee assignments noted)

Team Leader: Bob Flaak (CASAC)

Designated Federal Officers: Stephanie Sanzone (EPEC), Kathleen Conway (EEC), Angela Nugent (Council), Sam Rondberg (IHEC & EHC), Tom Miller (DWC & EEAC), and Jack Kooyoomjian (RAC).

Management Assistants: Wanda Fields (EHC & IHEC), Dorothy Clark (DWC & EEAC), Diana Pozun (RAC, Council & CASAC) and Mary Winston (EPEC & EEC).

Other Committee Staff: Jack Fowle (DFO - RSAC) and Don Barnes (DFO - EC); and Priscilla Tillery-Gadsen and Betty Fortune (Support for EC & RSAC).

### 2.2 Reports Issued this Fiscal Year (in chronological order) (R) = Full Reports; (L) = Letter Reports; (A) = Advisories; (C) = Commentaries; (N) = Notification of a Consultation

#### October:

- a) Commentary on the Role of Science in New Approaches (EC Subc) (C)
- b) Commentary on Utility of Proactive Technical Advice (EEC) (C)
- c) Clean Air Act Amendments Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits: Advisory by the Health and Ecological Effects Subcommittee on Initial Assessments of Health and Ecological Effects, part 2. (Council) (A)
- d) The Clean Air Amendments (CAAA) Section 812 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999): Advisory by the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis: Costs and Benefits of the CAAA (A)

#### November:

- a) Notification of a Consultation on the Development of the Carbon Monoxide Staff Paper (CASAC) (N)
- b) Final Advisory by the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis on the 1999 Prospective Study of Costs and Benefits (1999) of Implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) (Council) (A)

**2.3 Reports in Progress** (R) = Full Reports; (L) = Letter Reports; (A) = Advisories; (C) = Commentaries  
(N) = Notification of a Consultation

For EC Review on November 29-30:

- a) Biotic Ligand Model for Metals (EPEC) (L)
- b) Chloroform (EC Subc) (L)

For EC Review at a December TBA Teleconference

- a) Metals in Sediments Method (EPEC) (R)
- b) Childrens Cancer (EC Subc) (R)

For EC Review at a later date:

- a) Use of Human Data (EC Subc) (R)
- b) Waste Re-use (EEC) (C)
- c) Measures of Environmental Technology Performance (EEC) (C)
- d) Eco Soils Screening Levels (EPEC) (A)
- e) Use of Social Sciences to Reduce Barriers to Pollution Prevention (EEC) (C)
- f) IRP Report (IRP Committee) (R)
- g) Chloroform (EC Subc) (R)
- h) Assessment of Risks from radon in Homes (RAC) (R)

Not Subject to EC Review (CASAC/COUNCIL):

- a) Review of Carbon Monoxide Criteria Document (CASAC) (L)

Under Current Review by the EC

None

Approved by EC and undergoing completion:

- a) Drinking Water Ingestion (EC Subc) (R)
- b) Peer Review of EPA's Peer Review Program (RSAC) (R)
- c) Induced Travel (EEAC) (C)

## 2.4 Staff Contact Information

For further information concerning any committee, please contact the relevant staff as noted below. Phone numbers are as follows (area code 202 for all numbers, unless otherwise noted):

|                   |                |                          |          |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Don Barnes        | 564-4533       | Priscilla Tillery-Gadsen | 564-4533 |
| Jack Fowle        | 564-4547       | Mary Winston             | 564-4533 |
| Robert Flaak      | 564-4546       | Dorothy Clark            | 564-4533 |
| Sam Rondberg      | (301) 812-2560 | Diana Pozun              | 564-4533 |
| Angela Nugent     | 564-4562       | Wanda Fields             | 564-4533 |
| Stephanie Sanzone | 564-4561       | Betty Fortune            | 564-4533 |
| Kathleen Conway   | 564-4559       |                          |          |
| Jack Kooyoomjian  | 564-4557       |                          |          |
| Tom Miller        | 564-4558       |                          |          |

Fax for all Committee Operations Staff  
is: (202) 501-0582

Internet/e-mail for all EPA staff is: LASTNAME.FIRSTNAME@EPA.GOV (Exception is Sam Rondberg whose e-mail is: SAMUELRL717@AOL.COM).

## 2.5 Current Staffing Alignments:

|                     |                   |  |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Executive Committee | Don Barnes        | Priscilla Tillery-Gadson & Betty Fortune |
| CASAC               | Robert Flaak      | Diana Pozun                              |
| COUNCIL             | Angela Nugent     | Diana Pozun                              |
| DWC                 | Tom Miller        | Dorothy Clark                            |
| EEAC                | Tom Miller        | Dorothy Clark                            |
| EEC                 | Kathleen Conway   | Mary Winston                             |
| EHC                 | Sam Rondberg      | Wanda Fields                             |
| EPEC                | Stephanie Sanzone | Mary Winston                             |
| IHEC                | Sam Rondberg      | Wanda Fields                             |
| RAC                 | Jack Kooyoomjian  | Diana Pozun                              |
| RSAC                | Jack Fowle        | Priscilla Tillery-Gadson & Betty Fortune |